



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: **Kimihiko NISHIOKA et al.**

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Serial No.: **10/671,827**

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: **September 29, 2003**

Confirmation No.: **3902**

For: **IMAGING APPARATUS, CONTROLLING METHOD THEREOF  
AND FINDER**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 23, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the document listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date (or the entry of the national stage) of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

Serial No.:10/671,827

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2866 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Westerman, Hattori, Daniels & Adrian, LLP



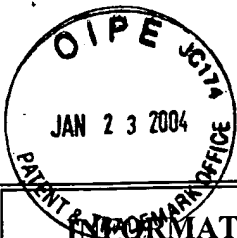
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Enclosures: PTO-1449 and 3 references

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE



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| <b>INFORMATION<br/>DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT<br/>PTO-1449</b> | Atty. Docket No.: <b>031216</b>             | Serial No.: <b>10/671,827</b>           |
|  | Applicants: <b>Kimihiko NISHIOKA et al.</b> |   |
|  | Filing Date: <b>September 29, 2003</b>      | Group Art Unit: <b>Not yet assigned</b> |

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner<br>Initial | Document No. | Name | Date | Class | Subclass | Filing Date<br>(If appropriate) |
|---------------------|--------------|------|------|-------|----------|---------------------------------|
| _____               | AA           |      |      |       |          |                                 |
| _____               | AB           |      |      |       |          |                                 |
| _____               | AC           |      |      |       |          |                                 |
| _____               | AD           |      |      |       |          |                                 |
| _____               | AE           |      |      |       |          |                                 |

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|       | Document No.   | Date       | Country | Translation<br>(Yes or No)                   |
|-------|----------------|------------|---------|--|
| _____ | AF 8-328085    | 12/13/1996 | Japan   | Yes (Abstract only), see page 4 in the spec. |
| _____ | AG 11-317894   | 11/16/1999 | Japan   | Yes (Abstract only), see page 4 in the spec. |
| _____ | AH 2002-122784 | 04/26/2002 | Japan   | Yes (Abstract only), see page 8 in the spec. |
| _____ | AI             |            |         |  |
| _____ | AJ             |            |         |  |

### OTHER DOCUMENTS

|          |                 |  |
|----------|-----------------|--|
| _____    | AK              |  |
| _____    | AL              |  |
| Examiner | Date Considered |  |